COCHIN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE PRELIMINARY MEETING, 1124

Friday, the *29th October 1948* / *13th Thulam 1124*

The Assembly met in the Assembly Hall, Ernakulam at half-past Eleven of the Clock with Sir C. V. Ananthakrishna Ayyar, Kt., Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature of Cochin in the Chair.

1. Swearing in of Members

His Lordship, Sir C. V. Ananthakrishna Ayyar, Kt.:—The first item is swearing in of members. I shall call the Hon'ble Members one by one to come before me and take the oath.

The following members were sworn in :—

1. Mr. K. A. Achuthan
2. ,, K. T. Achuthan
3. ,, V. K. Achutha Menon
4. ,, Alexander Parambithara
5. Miss Annie Joseph
6. Mr. K. Ayyappan
7. ,, K. Balakrishna Marar
8. ,, K. Balakrishna Menon
9. ,, T. S. Bandhu
10. ,, Bhaskara Menon
11. ,, Cheladi Rawther
12. ,, P. K. Dewer
13. ,, Ambat Eachara Menon
14. Dr. (Mrs.) T. Francis
15. Mr. Gasper D'Silva
16. ,, A. K. George
17. ,, Panampilli Govinda Menon
18. ,, E. Ikkanda Warrier
19. ,, O. T. Inasu
20. ,, Ittiera Ambookan
21. ,, C. V. Iyyu
22. ,, A. L. Jacob
23. Dr. C. L. Joseph
24. Mr. V. K. Joseph
25. ,, Joseph Mundasseri
26. ,, K. K. Kannan
27. ,, K. Karunakaran
28. ,, K. Kochukuttan
29. Mr. M. K. Menon
30. ,, P. K. Krishnankutty Menon
31. ,, Konnanath Kunjiraman Menon
32. ,, T. K. Kunjayyappan
33. ,, A. K. Kunjumoideen
34. ,, P. S. Madhavan Vaidyar
35. ,, K. C. Mayankutty Mather
36. ,, Mohamed Ayoob Sait
37. ,, K. W. Muraleedhara Marar
38. ,, C. U. Narayanan
39. ,, Kodanat Narayanan Namboodiripad
40. ,, K. Natarajan Chettiar
41. ,, C. A. Ouseph
42. ,, K. N. Pachayyappan Kounden
43. ,, M. I. Paul
44. ,, P. K. Paul
45. ,, C. C. Prasad
46. ,, L. M. Pylee
47. ,, T. P. Seetharaman
48. ,, A. K. Sankunny
49. ,, T. M. Sannalen
50. ,, Sebastian Thoppil
51. ,, K. H. Sulaiman
52. ,, A. M. Thomas
53. ,, K. Vasu Panicker
54. ,, M. R. Velappan
55. ,, K. I. Velayudhan
56. ,, K. K. Viswanathan

Rao Bahadur T. K. Nayar and Mr. A. Sivaramakrishnan were absent.

His Lordship, Sir C. V. Ananthakrishna Ayyar, Kt. :—The House now stands adjourned till 2 p.m.

The House rose for lunch at 12-20 p.m. and reassembled at 2 p.m. with Dr. (Mrs.) T. Francis in the Chair.

2. Election of the President

President: The only one Hon'ble Member who has been duly nominated for the Office of the President is Mr. L. M. Pylee, Member for Cheranellur Latin Christian Reserved Constituency. Two nominations have received proposing Mr. Pylee—one proposed by Mr. A. L. Jacob, member for Cheranellur General Constituency seconded by Mr. K. C. Mayankutty

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[President]
Mather, Member for Cheranellur Muslim Reserved Constituency and the other proposed by Mr. M. Bhaskara Menon, Member for Ernakulam General Constituency, seconded by Mr. P. K. Krishnankutty Menon, member for Vellarappilly General Constituency. There being only one duly nominated candidate, I declare Mr. L. M. Pylee to have been elected to the Office of the President of the Legislative Assembly. I now request Mr. Pylee to take the Chair.

Mr. L. M. Pylee took the Chair

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warrier *(Prime Minister)*: I congratulate you, Sir, on your election as President of this august Assembly. This is the first Assembly elected on the basis of adult franchise after the grant of full responsible Government and with constituent powers. It is a great honour indeed to be the first President of such an Assembly. To guide the deliberations of such a body is a very responsible and onerous work. You were a member of this Council for over ten years and you had the honour of being its Deputy President and subsequently its first elected President. You are not therefore new to this place. With this experience at your back and your sense of Justice and impartiality we can expect that you will maintain the rights and privileges of this House as you have been doing in the past. I on my behalf and on behalf of the Government wish you all success and assure you of our whole-hearted co-operation in the difficult work ahead.

Dr. C. L. Joseph *(Irrinjalakkuda)*: On behalf of my party and myself I tender my congratulations to you on your election as President of this Assembly.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Mr. President, Sir, On my personal behalf and on behalf of the independent members of this House I also endorse every word the Leader of the House has spoken about you in this House about your past career both in politics and in the educational world as well. The place you occupy in the minds of the people of this State and the adjoining State of Travancore is only too well known. I congratulate you most heartly on your election as President without any opposition. During the term of Presidentship your reputation of being above all party considerations will, I am confident, be kept up. I request you to continue to be the upholder of the rights and privilegesof this Hon'ble House and keep on the tradition which you have yourselsf crupulously maintained during your last term of Presidentship. Once more congratulating you I resume my seat.

Dr. (Mrs.) T. Francis *(Ernakulam Women)*: Sri, I heartly congratulate you. Hon'ble Members of this House are well aware that this is the first time in the history of our land that we are having an Assembly elected on adult franchise enjoying full responsible Government. This is an epoch-making event. It is on such an occasion and to the Chair of such an Assembly that Mr. Pylee is elected as President and that unanimously. Now, therefore I heartly congratulate you, Sir, once more. There is not the least doubt in my mind that our choice is a happy one.

Mr. Pylee's capabilities are well and widely known. A great scholar,an eminent publicist, for long a Professor of political science and an authority in Parliamentary Practice and Procedure, he is eminently fitted for filling the high and august office to which we have elected him today. This is the second time he is elected. I am glad we have followed the British Parliamentary convention of electing the same man for the Speaker's post.

Many of the Hon'ble Members and the public know the creditable manner in which he conducted the proceedings of the last Council during his term of office as its first elected President and the record of the brilliant rulings he has given. We can therefore expect the same standard of impartiality and efficiency in the future proceedings of this House.

I also thank His Highness, our beloved Maharaja for nominating me to preside on this occasion and thus honouring the women-subjects of His Highness.

May God bless you.

Mr. A. L. Jacob *(Cheranellur)*: Sir, I rise to offer you my most respectful felicitations on your election to the exalted office of the President of this House. The fact that this is the first Legislative body to be elected in the State of ours, on the basis of adult franchise, adds to the prestige and diginity of this House. The constitution of this House of Legislature is the last mile-stone in our march towards full dem ocrtic self-government. And to be elected to the Presidentship is no small honour. By your election to the Presidentship, Sir, the people of Cochin, through their accredited representatives, have placed in your hands, with perfect faith in your ability and character, the heavy responsibility of guiding the deliberations of this House along right lines.

Never before in the history of Cochin has a House of Legislature been called upon to shoulder responsibilities and perform tasks so heavy as this House has been. By the recent Proclamation of His Highness the Maharaja, this House has been entrusted with a double task.—

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that of legislation and of constitution making. We have to make headway without losing a moment in the task of evolving an ideal constitution for this land of ours. The Constitution of the Indian Union is nearing completion. Travancore and Mysore, our neighbours, are forging a head in the line. The task is great and we have not a moment to lose.

Again, this House has to carry on day to day Legislation which will keep the machinery of Government running smoothly. We have also to prescribe and enforce solutions for pressing social, economic and political problems of the first magnitude, which can neither be ignored nor postponed.

In the proper and efficient discharge of these heavy responsibilities, we require a man of mature wisdom and balanced judgment, of high principles and deep sagacity of tact and good-will to guide our steps. The House, and the enlightened and progressive people of Cochin feel proud in having been able to find in you, Sir, one who is admirably qualified in every way to occupy the Presidential Chair. As an eminent Professor of politics and constitutional law, as a Legislator with long and varied experiences, and as a man of high culture and liberal out-look, you will, I am sure, be able to fulfil the high hopes which we have reposed in you.

Sir, you are not new to this place of honour. By your election to the Presidentship today, the people of Cochin are only reaffirming their faith in your leadership and giving expression in their gratification at the right choice they made, when they elected you to this high office, last time.

I wish you, Sir, a very successful term as President of this House. May God give you the strength and the wisdom to guide the deliberations of this House, upholding the rough storm and sunshine, the high ideals of freedom, justice and fairplay.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എച്ച്. സുലൈമാൻ: സർ, അങ്ങയ്ക്ക് സമുന്നതമായ ഈ പദവി ലഭിച്ചതിൽ ഞാൻ ഏറ്റവും സന്തോഷിക്കുകയും അങ്ങയെ അനുമോദിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. അങ്ങയുടെ കഴിഞ്ഞ കാലചരിത്രമാണ് അപ്രതിഷേധ്യമായ രീതിയിൽ ഈ സ്ഥാനം പ്രാപിക്കുവാൻ അങ്ങയ്ക്ക് സഹായകമായി തീർന്നിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഈ അസംബ്ലിയുടെ പ്രസിഡണ്ടായി ഉയർന്നതോടുകൂടി താങ്കൾ കൊച്ചീരാജ്യത്തിലെ പ്രജാവലിയിൽ ഏറ്റവും പ്രമുഖനായ ഒരു പ്രജയായി തീരുകയും, ഒന്നാം പ്രജയായിതന്നെ തീരുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. അങ്ങയെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് പ്രാസംഗികന്മാർ സൂചിപ്പിച്ച എല്ലാ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളോടും പരിപൂർണ്ണമായി യോജിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് താങ്കളോട് എനിക്കുള്ള അനുമോദനത്തേയും സന്തോഷത്തേയും ഒന്നുകൂടി ഇവിടെ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. President: Hon'ble members of the Assembly, I thank you for having elected me as the President of the new Assemby, and for the great honour you have thereby bestowed upon me.

This is a manifestation of the confidence you have reposed on me, and it shall be my earnest endeavour to justify that confidence by discharging my duties as President without fear or favour and in accordance with the high traditions and conventions of the Parliamentary system of Government.

We are at the beginning of a new epoch. As pointed out by some of the Hon'ble Members, this Assembly is different in character, composition and powers from the Preceding Houses of Legislature we have hitherto had. This House has been elected on the basis of adult franchise, and has powers of full responsible Government. It has now come nearest to Parliamentary model. The responsibilities of the Chair have thereby increased and its duties have become more arduous. In discharging them I fully rely upon the support and co-operation of the Hon'ble members. As far as circumstances permit, in the proceedings of this House, the Mother of Parliaments shall be our model. And I shall strive my utmost to safeguard the privileges and maintain the dignity of this august body.

Hon'ble members, today we are embarking upon the final stage of a great experiment. The future of parliamentary Government in our State rests upon our shoulders. Let us work peacefully, harmoniously and make this great experiment a suceess. May God give us light and strength to fulfil this high task!

Hon'ble members, I thank you once again for the honour you have done me and for the felicitations which the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Members of this House on their own behalf as well as on behalf of their respective parties have offered me, although I pesronally feel that I do not deserve much of the encomiums that have been showered upon me.

Hon'ble members, thank you.

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